

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Applicants to the PhD in Informatics Engineering at the University of Coimbra (Version 1, 2024)

Introduction

This document gives answers to several frequently asked questions that arise to an applicant to the PhD in Informatics Engineering at the University of Coimbra. However, it is important to note that this document does not serve as a substitute for the official information provided by the University of Coimbra and governmental websites.

If you find any mistake and/or outdated information, please, inform us by writing an e-mail to the Coordination team of the PhD in Informatics Engineering (coord-phd@dei.uc.pt).

FAQ1: What are the requirements for applying to this PhD program?

a) Holders of bachelor's and master's degrees, integrated master's degrees or legal equivalent in Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Systems and Computer Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering or courses that the evaluation panel considers to provide adequate basic preparation in computer engineering and computer science.

b) Holders of a bachelor's degree awarded by a Portuguese university in the areas referred to in the previous paragraph (a), whose degree was obtained in light of legislation prior to Law no. 49/2005, of August 30, as well as foreign candidates holding equivalent qualifications, which are recognized as attesting the ability to carry out this cycle of studies by the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Coimbra.

c) In very exceptional cases, and duly justified, holders of an academic, scientific, or professional curriculum that is very relevant for attending this cycle of studies and that, as such, is recognized by the FCTUC Scientific Council.

The recognitions referred to in paragraphs b) and c) only give access to the study cycle leading to a doctorate degree and do not grant its holder the recognition to a bachelor's or master's degree.

FAQ2: What are the required documents for applying to this PhD program?

1. Letter of motivation (**MANDATORY**),
2. Two letters of recommendation (**MANDATORY**),
3. Certificate or Diploma of completion of the degree with final average or other equivalent document. It must include the certificate proving approval in the curricular units completed, with respective classifications (school transcript or diploma supplement). (**MANDATORY** except if it is a course taught at the University of Coimbra),
4. Certificate or Diploma of master's degree with final average or other equivalent document. It must include the certificate proving approval in the curricular units completed, with respective classifications

(school transcript or diploma supplement) (**MANDATORY** except if it is a course taught at the University of Coimbra),

5. Certificate of other courses possibly completed with programs and course loads of curricular units completed with respective classifications (school transcript), if you wish to receive credits.

(**MANDATORY**, except if it is a course taught at the University of Coimbra within the scope of the Bologna Process (after 2007/2008)),

6. Curriculum vitae (**MANDATORY**),

7. Identification document; (**MANDATORY** for foreign candidates only),

8. Document certifying qualifications, issued by the institution that awards the highest degree, indicating the average course completion and the rating scale. (**MANDATORY** only for holders of a foreign degree, whose Degree Certificate does not contain the average).

FAQ3: How is the evaluation process?

The jury first evaluates i) the **candidates' curriculum** considering the final classification of the course(s) taken by the candidates, ii) the **scientific curriculum**, considering the scientific publications, participation in research projects and other elements, iii) the **professional curriculum**, considering the duration and nature of the professional functions carried out in the scientific area of the study cycle in question, iv) **Letter of Motivation** signed by the candidate, together with a declaration that he is the sole author of the document, taking into account motivation to apply for the course, contribution of the course to individual career development, and alignment of individual research interests with the course's areas of specialization.

Then, all candidates are interviewed during the selection process, and the interview can be carried out via Zoom or similar. Interviews must be carried out in English, with the **assessment of candidates' proficiency in the English language** being an integral part of the interview evaluation. **The minimum level of English language proficiency expected is C1**, according to the Common European Framework of References for Languages (CEFR). The jury may decide that the candidate must take a written English test to assess minimum knowledge of the English language. In this case, the interview will be suspended and the date for the English test will be agreed with the candidate, which will conclude the assessment carried out in the interview.

In the case the candidates pass the interview (having **the minimum level of English required**), the final score is calculated considering the following weighting:

- Candidates' curriculum - weighting 9/10
- Interview - weighting 1/10

The result is converted to a scale of 0 to 20 values for the final selection of candidates. In each application phase, candidates with a **final evaluation greater than or equal to 14.0** will be accepted, filling the open places in each phase in descending order of classifications.

FAQ4: Is it mandatory to provide GRE or TOEFL scores for application? If so, where can I take the GRE and TOEFL tests?

It is **NOT MANDATORY** to provide GRE or TOEFL scores for the application, although it may help the English level evaluation during the interview. If you are willing to take the tests, you can apply for the GRE (Graduate Record Examination) General Test and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) at the ETS registration site (www.ets.org).

FAQ5: Where do I apply?

Applications are online as you can find by clicking on this [link](#). This page will redirect you to a website called “inforestudante” (<https://inforestudante.uc.pt>), where you have to register in order to start your application. If you need any help in this process, please contact us.

FAQ6: When and how do I know if I was admitted to the PhD?

After the application deadline, the scientific commission of the Department will assemble and analyze all applications. The results will be out within the scheduled deadline. Every applicant will receive a notification informing him/her whether he/she was admitted or not to the PhD. The student should then confirm the intention to enroll in the Program.

FAQ7: What are the costs?

The tuition fee for every student (national or non-national) is €2750 per year. This amount can be paid in 10 installments along the two semesters.

Prospective candidates should consider a monthly cost of €600 as typical minimum living expenses. (Room – €250; Food – €250; Transportation – €40; Miscellaneous – €60)

FAQ8: Is there any financial support?

There are two main funding opportunities for students enrolled in our Doctoral Program: Research Scholarships for PhD, at the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal (see previous edition in <https://www.fct.pt/en/concursos/concurso-bolsas-de-doutoramento-2023-linha-de-candidatura-geral>) and grants within research projects at CISUC (See list of ongoing projects in <https://www.cisuc.uc.pt/en/projects>) and list of available scholarships at UC in <https://apply.uc.pt/explore/scholarships>). Applications for these scholarships will only be available to accepted students as soon as admission results are out.

FAQ9: Do I need to have my own laptop?

Yes, the student must have their own laptop.

FAQ10: In what language will the courses be taught?

The courses are taught in English.

FAQ11: What is the classes schedule?

There is no pre-defined schedule until close to the beginning of the school year. Classes will preferably take place on only one or two days of the week.